



WEEK
TWO
JULY 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

Lead children in singing "Best Friend."

"Wow! Jesus is always there for you. Jesus is always there for me. And He'll never, ever, ever leave. What a huge reason to worship and say, 'Thank You, Jesus!' Thanks for worshipping with me, friends."

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Raincoat, rain boots, and megaphone

Preset the table, megaphone, and prepared box for Story in the storytelling area.

Host enters, wearing a raincoat and rain boots, walking slowly and looking sad.

HOST: "Hi, friends! Today was supposed to be the best day ever. Until it rained. (*singing*) 'Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day!' You see, I was supposed to go to a car race with my uncle. We were going to sit right at the start line!

Pick up megaphone and speak into it.

"Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines! (*Pause.*) Ready. Set. MOVE!

Put down the megaphone.

"We were going to be close enough that I could see the drivers when the race cars went by. It was going to be awesome, but now the race is canceled because of the rain.

"You know, it's hard to choose joy when things happen that make you feel sad or mad, but that's what today's Bible story is all about . . . how Jesus can help us choose joy! It sounds like just the Bible story I need to hear. (*Give a little smile.*) See you later!"

Host exits with the megaphone.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, small table, large cardboard box (*big enough for the storyteller to stand in*), utility knife, and tape; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

The prepared box/"jail" and table should already be preset in the storytelling area with the open side of the box facing away from the children.

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Hold up the Bible and lay it open on the table.



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“Our Bible story, today, is about two of Jesus’ friends named Paul and Silas.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 01)

“Paul and Silas loved Jesus, and they told people everywhere that Jesus wanted to be their friend forever.

“One day, some people got mad at Paul and Silas for telling people about Jesus, so they put them in jail.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 02)

Step into the box.

“Jail is not a fun place. But let me tell you what Paul and Silas did! Even though Paul and Silas were in jail, they began to sing!

(Option: Display Story Image W2 03)

“Paul and Silas chose to sing and praise Jesus with joy!

Sing a little bit of a worship song the children will recognize and then continue with the story.

“Paul and Silas knew that even though they were in jail, Jesus still loved them and was their friend forever. Jesus helped them choose joy! Wow!

“But that’s not all! Later that night, while Paul and Silas were singing, the ground began to shake. It was an earthquake! The earthquake made the doors to the jail fly wide open!

Quickly remove the tape holding the box walls up to make the walls fall flat.

Act like you’re about to run away but stop quickly.

“You would think Paul and Silas would run away as fast as they could from that jail, but they didn’t.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 04)

“Paul and Silas stayed so they could tell the guard that Jesus loves him and wants to be his friend forever. Then the guard had joy, too!

“Jesus is so awesome! Jesus helped Paul and Silas choose joy, and Jesus can help us choose joy, too, no matter where we are!

Walk away from the flat box.

“When we are at the playground, at the doctor, at school, at the store—Jesus can help us choose joy! Whether it’s a sunny day, a rainy day, a windy day, or a snowy day—Jesus can help us choose joy!



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"This Bible story makes me want to follow Jesus here (*one arm out*), there (*other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE! (*both arms out*) Stand up and do that with me."

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "We can follow Jesus here (*one arm out*), there (*other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE!" (*both arms out*)

STORYTELLER: "Because Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**

STORYTELLER: "Louder! **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**

STORYTELLER: "Okay friends, it's time to pray. Everyone, sit back down. Let's close our eyes, and we can talk to God together."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, Thank You for giving us Jesus to help us choose joy, no matter where we are. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"Thanks for being such great listeners! I hope you have fun learning more about Jesus in your small groups!"

Storyteller exits with the Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Raincoat and rain boots from Intro Sketch

Host enters, smiling and wearing the raincoat and rain boots.

HOST: "Wow! Paul and Silas could have been grumpy or sad or mad, but instead, they sang, and Jesus helped them choose joy!"

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good! I'm really bummed about missing the race, but I can still choose joy! I have lots of toy cars and a big race track set at home. So I'm going to invite my friends and have a pretend car race right in my house. See you next time! Vrooom! Vrooom!"

Host pretends to drive a racecar as they exit.